

Message

From: McIntosh, Chad [mcintosh.chad@epa.gov]
Sent: 10/26/2018 6:14:05 PM
To: Nishida, Jane [Nishida.Jane@epa.gov]
Subject: Fwd: Follow up to our discussion on glyphosate in Colombia

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Begin forwarded message:

From: "Hill-Macon, Cam" <Hill-Macon.Cam@epa.gov>
Date: October 23, 2018 at 8:49:16 PM EDT
To: "McIntosh, Chad" <mcintosh.chad@epa.gov>
Cc: "Almodovar, Lisa" <Almodovar.Lisa@epa.gov>, "Kasman, Mark" <Kasman.Mark@epa.gov>, "Zimmer, Nathaniel" <zimmer.nathaniel@epa.gov>
Subject: Follow up to our discussion on glyphosate in Colombia

Hi Chad,

As you requested this afternoon from Lisa and me, here is some background on the EPA's role in the use of glyphosate in Colombia.

- EPA's involvement started with a Congressional appropriation requirement in 2002 that State Department certify, in consultation with EPA and other agencies, that the aerial use of glyphosate in the coca eradication program in Colombia did not pose unreasonable risks or adverse effects to humans or endemic species. Congress added the requirement in response to reports and advocacy campaigns by some U.S. and Colombian NGOs and local Colombian health agencies alleging health impacts of the spraying program.
- After a brief absence of the requirement in 2012 and 2013, it reappeared in State's 2014 appropriation, requiring them to withhold 10% from funds appropriated for Colombian national aerial eradication programs "unless the Secretary of State certifies to the Committees on Appropriations that the herbicides do not pose unreasonable risks or adverse effects to humans, including pregnant women and children, or the environment, including endemic species."
- When Congress requested these certifications from 2002 through 2011 and then again in 2014, State's International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Bureau (INL) reached out to the EPA Office of Pesticide Programs to certify glyphosate's safety. OPP either conducted formal assessments on glyphosate (the last one being in 2004) or certified the safety of the chemical based on previous assessments. OPP used its FIFRA-required reassessment of glyphosate in 2014-2015 to underpin its conclusions for the 2015 report to State.
- Colombia's Santos Administration suspended and later banned the aerial spraying of glyphosate, following a March 2015 statement from the U.N. International Agency for Research on Cancer

(IARC) reclassifying the herbicide as “probably carcinogenic to humans.” OPP’s outreach team provided talking points, information on EPA risk assessments, and other documents to help U.S. Embassy Bogota respond to numerous inquiries about glyphosate and its use in the U.S.

- President Santos left office in August 2018 but, in June, authorized the use of low-level spraying of glyphosate with the use of drones. Colombia’s new President, Ivan Duque, has said that the full aerial spraying program could restart if it met certain conditions.

Understanding Colombia’s and U.S. Embassy Bogota’s interest in having an information exchange with EPA on glyphosate, the best first step may be for EPA to have a videoconference with Colombian experts to get an update on the country’s use of glyphosate, understand Colombia’s specific technical issues of concern, and determine options for any additional technical exchanges, if needed.

Please let us know if you need any additional information to consider this proposal.

Thanks,

Cam

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